

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-6 (Canceled).

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): An antibacterial composition comprising:

- (a) at least one antibacterial salt compound,
- (b) at least one acid group-having polymerizable monomer,
- (c) at least one hydrophilic polymerizable monomer,
- (d) water, and
- (e) at least one basic compound selected from the group consisting of an alkali metal hydroxide, a strong basic acid salt not having an aromatic group, and primary, secondary or tertiary aliphatic amine;

wherein the tertiary amine is selected from the group consisting of trimethylamine, triethylamine, N-ethyldiethanolamine, N-n-butyldiethanolamine, N-lauryldiethanolamine, triethanolamine, N-methyldiethanolamine dimethacrylate, triethanolamine dimethacrylate, triethanolamine trimethacrylate and mixtures thereof.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The antibacterial composition of Claim 7, wherein the antibacterial salt compound (a) is an antibacterial pyridinium salt compound.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The antibacterial composition Claim 7, wherein the antibacterial salt compound (a) is a polymerizable group-having antibacterial salt compound.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The antibacterial composition of Claim 7, wherein the antibacterial salt compound (a) is ~~an polymerizable group having~~, antibacterial pyridinium salt compound having a polymerizable group.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The antibacterial composition of Claim 7, wherein (e) is at least one alkali metal hydroxide.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The antibacterial composition of Claim 7, wherein (e) is lithium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide or sodium hydroxide.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The antibacterial composition of Claim 7, wherein (e) is at least one strong basic acid salt not having an aromatic group.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The antibacterial composition of Claim 7, wherein (e) is lithium carbonate, sodium carbonate, potassium carbonate, lithium hydrogencarbonate, potassium hydrogencarbonate, sodium hydrogencarbonate, sodium formate, sodium hydrogen oxalate, sodium acetate, potassium acetate, sodium propionate, sodium borate, sodium dihydrogenphosphite, potassium dihydrogenphosphite, sodium dihydrogenphosphate, potassium dihydrogenphosphate, disodium hydrogenphosphate, or dipotassium hydrogenphosphate.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The antibacterial composition of Claim 7, wherein (e) is at least one primary, secondary or tertiary aliphatic amine;

wherein the tertiary amine is selected from the group consisting of trimethylamine, triethylamine, N-ethyldiethanolamine, N-n-butyldiethanolamine, N-lauryldiethanolamine,

triethanolamine, N-methyldiethanolamine dimethacrylate, triethanolamine dimethacrylate, triethanolamine trimethacrylate and mixtures thereof.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The antibacterial composition of Claim 7, wherein (e) is at least one primary aliphatic amine.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The antibacterial composition of Claim 7, wherein (e) is at least one secondary aliphatic amine.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The antibacterial composition of Claim 7, wherein (e) is at least one tertiary aliphatic amine, ~~wherein the tertiary amine is selected from the group consisting of trimethylamine, triethylamine, N-ethyldiethanolamine, N-n-butyl diethanolamine, N-lauryldiethanolamine, and triethanolamine, N-methyldiethanolamine dimethacrylate, triethanolamine dimethacrylate, and triethanolamine trimethacrylate and mixtures thereof.~~

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): The antibacterial composition of Claim 7, wherein (e) is at least one ~~polymerizable tertiary aliphatic amine, wherein the polymerizable tertiary amine is~~ compound selected from the group consisting of N-methyldiethanolamine dimethacrylate, triethanolamine dimethacrylate, and triethanolamine trimethacrylate ~~and mixtures thereof.~~

Claim 20 (Canceled).

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The antibacterial composition of Claim 7, which further comprises (f) a polymerization initiator.

Claim 22-24 (Cancelled)

Claim 25 (New): The composition of Claim 7, wherein said composition does not visibly discolor when stored at 50°C for one month.

Claim 26 (New): The composition of Claim 7, which has an adhesiveness to bovine dentin of at least about 15 MPa.

Claim 27 (New): A dental treatment method comprising:
applying the composition of Claim 7 to teeth and curing or polymerizing said composition.

Claim 28 (New): A dental treatment method comprising:
applying the composition of Claim 7 to a dental bonding material or to a dental restorative material and curing or polymerizing said composition.